

Message Text

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SECDEF FOR ISA (MR. MILLER)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR NATO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF NATO MBC TO THE UNITED STATES IN MAY
OF 1979

SUMMARY: MSG ADVISES NEED TO FIRM UP INFORMAL AGREEMENT
TO HOST MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE (MBC) TRIP TO THE US IN
MAY OF 1979. MBC MUST NOW BUDGET FOR AS WELL AS PLAN ITS
1979 TRAVEL SINCE IT BUDGETS FOR ITS OWN TRANSPORTATION
IN THE NATO MILITARY BUDGET. THUS, EARLY REQUEST HAS BEEN
PROVEN NECESSARY. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONFIRMA-
TION THAT US WILL SPONSOR MBC TRAVEL TO US IN MAY 1979.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MBC (DENNEHY) DISCUSSED
PROPOSED SUBJECT TRAVEL WITH MR. MILLER DURING HIS VISIT
TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL. IT WAS AGREED THEN NOT TO INTRO-
DUCE THIS SUBJECT ON A FORMAL BASIS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1978.

2. HOWEVER, THE MBC AT A RECENT MEETING ADDRESSED THE
BUSINESS OF BUDGETING FOR ITS 1979 TRAVEL. THE MBC IS
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UNIQUE IN THAT IT FUNDS ITS TRAVEL (TRANSPORTATION) COSTS
FOR ANNUAL VISITS TO MAJOR NATO HEADQUARTERS FROM THE NATO
MILITARY BUDGET. IT THUS BECAME NECESSARY FOR THE US
REP TO INFORM THE COMMITTEE OF HIS PRELIMINARY EFFORTS TO
ARRANGE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE US IN MAY OF 1979.
THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ADVISED TO BUDGET FOR A TRIP TO
THE US. THE US REP FELT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT

INFORMAL ASSURANCE IN WASHINGTON THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED.

3. AS BACKGROUND, THE COMMITTEE HAS MADE ANNUAL VISITS TO VARIOUS NATO INSTALLATIONS FOR WHICH IT HAS BUDGET SCREENING RESPONSIBILITY SINCE 1968. ITS LAST VISIT TO THE US WAS IN 1971. A PLANNED TRIP TO THE US IN 1976 WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TIME AVAILABLE TO ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATE ITINERARY.

4. OF PERTINENT INTEREST IS INFORMAL INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE US REP BY HIS CANADIAN COLLEAGUE (ALARIE) TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE IDEA OF TYING IN A VISIT TO SEVERAL CANADIAN INSTALLATIONS WHILE THE COMMITTEE WAS IN THE US.

5. THE COMMITTEE'S 10-15 DAYS ON THE ROAD EACH YEAR IS RECOGNIZED AS A COST EFFECTIVE BUDGET CONTROL PRACTICE. THE TRIPS HAVE BEEN PROFITABLY COUPLED WITH HOST NATION SPONSORED VISITS TO NATIONAL INSTALLATIONS WHERE IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THESE INSTALLATIONS PROVIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH HOST AIMS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NATO AND CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL FUNDED VERSUS COMMON FUNDED MUTUAL DEFENSE EFFORT.

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6. IF WASHINGTON CONFIRMS ITS INTENTION TO SPONSOR SUBJECT TRAVEL, WE CAN PROPOSE AN ITINERARY WITH APPROPRIATE JUSTIFICATION IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL OF 1978 TO ASSURE ADEQUATE PLANNING TIME FOR US OFFICIALS.

7. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO OBTAIN FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF US INTENTION TO SPONSOR MBC TRAVEL TO US IN MAY OF 1979. THE COMMITTEE FEELS IT NEEDS SUCH ASSURANCE AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO GO FORWARD WITH ITS BUDGET AS WELL AS TRAVEL PLANNING FOR 1979. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION THAT IT WILL SPONSOR PROPOSED MBC TRAVEL. GLITMAN

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